

Methane Hydrates Interagency R&D Conference



MMS



Demonstrating the power of working together

Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel
March 20-22, 2002

The widespread occurrence of natural methane hydrate is one of the most exciting scientific discoveries of the past two decades. Just as exciting is the unprecedented cooperation between federal agencies involved in hydrate research. The purpose of this conference is to present the results of and future plans for methane hydrate research by the participating federal agencies.

Attendees will:

- Learn about the key issues surrounding natural methane hydrates from those who are leading research, development, and demonstration efforts;
- Become informed about ongoing R&D efforts; and
- Exchange ideas with hydrate advocates throughout North America.

Hydrates Overview – Once thought to be only a laboratory curiosity, we now know that methane hydrate may hold more organic carbon (and more energy potential) than all the world's coal, oil, and natural gas combined. This unique combination of methane (the main component of natural gas) trapped inside ice crystals has been recorded virtually everywhere high pressures combine with relatively low temperatures; particularly in areas of Arctic permafrost and in ocean sediments at depths of 500 meters or more.

The issues surrounding methane hydrates are incredibly broad and complex. In addition to their potential as a huge future energy source, ongoing research is revealing that methane hydrates are a vast and dynamic component of the natural environment. New discoveries now being made could dramatically alter both the global balance of the world energy supply and our basic understanding of the way the Earth's crust, oceans, atmosphere, and climate interact.

Interagency Cooperation – The National Methane Hydrates Research and Development Act of 2000 sets forth a program of federally funded collaborative research that addresses the multifaceted issues and areas of research associated with methane hydrates. The program supports basic science and technological research and development utilizing the talent of federal, private, and academic organizations. This research is being coordinated by the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) to ensure that the research is efficient and cooperative, that there is not duplication of work, and that no important questions are left unanswered. The committee is made up of members from the following agencies:

- U.S. DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)
- Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)
- Minerals Management Service (MMS)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)

Conference Presentations

The conference will begin with an overview of methane hydrate issues. Topics will include an assessment of the scale at which hydrates occurs, the connections between hydrates, global climate change, the world's oceans and newly-discovered chemosynthetic lifeforms, and a review of international activities related to natural methane hydrate. The remainder of the conference will concentrate on each agency's research efforts by geographical region – Arctic, West Coast, East Coast, and Gulf of Mexico.

Who should attend

- Oil and gas exploration and production executives, technology developers, researchers, and service providers.
- Federal and state agency personnel involved in energy policy, energy-related research, or planning.
- Universities, associations, and other groups involved in methane hydrate research, development, and policy analysis.
- Anyone interested in the nation's long-term energy future, or the role natural hydrates play in global climate and ocean processes.

Agenda

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Washington, DC

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2002

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. **Pre-Registration & Poster Setup**

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2002

7:00 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. **Welcome & Introduction**
Assistant Secretary of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

8:20 a.m. **Keynote Address**

8:45 a.m. **Conference Game Plan/Program Goals & Objectives**
U.S. DOE, National Energy Technology
Laboratory

9:00 a.m. **The Curiosity of Hydrates**
U.S. Geological Survey

9:20 a.m. **Methane Hydrates Issues**

- Resources Assessment, U.S. Geological Survey
- Hazards/Safety, Minerals Management Service

9:50 a.m. **Break**

10:05 a.m. **Methane Hydrates Issues** (Continued)

- Global Climate Change, National Science Foundation
- Chemosynthetic Communities, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- International Coordination, Naval Research Laboratory
- Panel Discussion

11:15 a.m. **Lunch** (on your own)

12:40 p.m. **Arctic Region Projects**

This session will feature talks about methane hydrate projects in Alaska and other Arctic areas. The Alaska hydrate resource will be discussed as well as an international drilling project in Canada.

3:10 p.m. **Break**

3:25 p.m. **West Coast Projects**

This session will feature talks about methane hydrate projects in the Western United States and Canada. The Ocean Drilling Program Leg 204 off the coast of Oregon will be discussed as well as the Canadian work in Cascadia.

5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

6:30 p.m. **Reception/Poster Session**
Reception hosted by ChevronTexaco Corp.

Space will be provided for 14 poster presentations, which will be displayed throughout the entire conference. If you would like to present a poster, please indicate so on the registration form included in this brochure. You will be contacted by NETL Event Management with further information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2002

7:30 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. **Welcome Back**

8:10 a.m. **East Coast Projects**

This session will feature talks about methane hydrate projects in the Atlantic Ocean, including cruises to the Blake Ridge off the coast of South Carolina.

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:35 a.m. **Gulf of Mexico Projects**

This session will feature talks about methane hydrate projects in the Gulf of Mexico. The GOM Joint Industry Project for safety and seafloor stability will be discussed as will the efforts of the Center for Marine Research and Environmental Technologies.

11:50 a.m. **Lunch** (on your own)

1:15 p.m. **Gulf of Mexico Projects** (Continued)

2:30 p.m. **General Discussion/Closing Statements**

3:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Conference Venue

The conference will be held at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel, 999 9th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. A block of rooms is available for conference attendees at the rate of \$179.00 for a single room or \$199.00 for a double room plus 14.5% tax. Please call the hotel directly at **1-800-HOTELS-1** or **202-898-9000** to make your reservation, and be sure to mention that you are attending the **Methane Hydrates Interagency R&D Conference**.

All reservations must be accompanied by a first-night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. The hotel will not hold any reservations unless secured by one of the above methods. **The special conference rate is available only until Friday, March 8, 2002.**

The hotel is located on the corner of 9th and K streets, across from the Washington Convention Center and midway between the Capitol and White House.

Parking is available at the hotel. The cost is \$17/day for self parking and \$22/day for valet parking.

For additional information about the Renaissance Hotel, visit the hotel's website at www.renaissancehotels.com/WASRB.



Directions to the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel

Coming from the North (Baltimore-Washington International Airport, Baltimore, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania)

Take **I-95 South** to the Washington Beltway (**I-495**). Continue **South** on **I-495** in the direction of "**Washington/Richmond VA.**" Proceed to **Exit #22**, this will take you to **Baltimore/Washington Parkway**. Take the **Route 50 exit** and proceed **west**, **Route 50** will turn into **New York Avenue**. Take **New York Avenue** to **7th Street NW** and make a **left**. Make an immediate **right** turn on **K Street**. At the next corner, make a **left** on **9th Street**, the hotel is on your immediate **left**.

Coming from the South (National Airport, Richmond, Springfield, Alexandria)

Take **I-95 North** to **I-395 North**. As you cross the bridge proceed to one of the **right hand lanes** and **exit** on **12th Street**, stay in the **left lane**. You will be traveling **North** on **12th Street**, make a **right** turn on **New York Avenue**. Proceed on **New York Avenue** for only two blocks and make a **right** turn on **9th Street**. The hotel is on your immediate **left**.

Coming from the East (Annapolis)

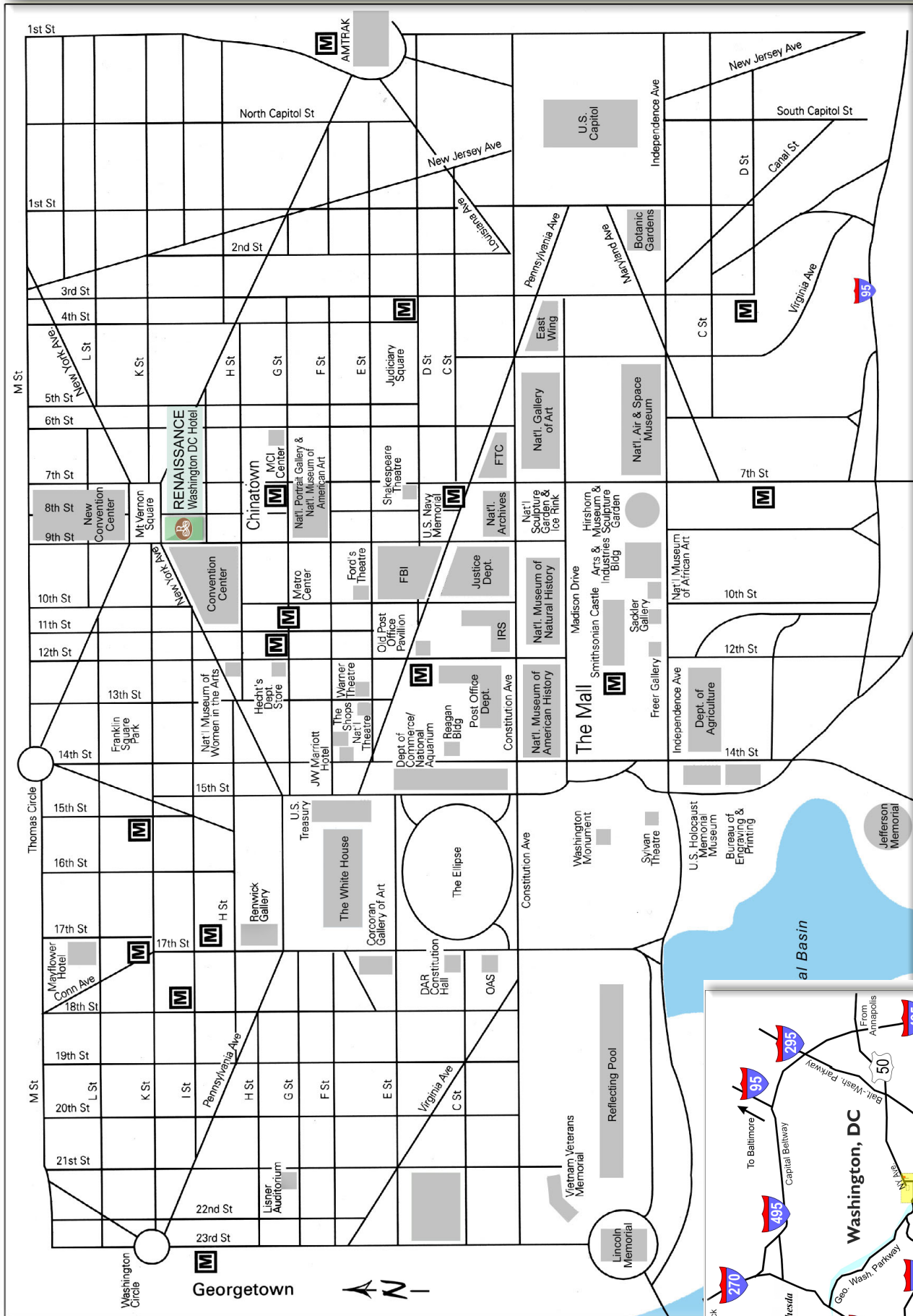
Take **Route 50 West**, this road splits, make sure you go in the **New York Avenue** side. Make a **left** on **7th Street NW** and then an immediate **right** onto **K Street**. On the next corner make a **left** onto **9th Street**, the hotel is on your immediate **left**.

Coming from I-270 (Pittsburgh, Frederick, Rockville)

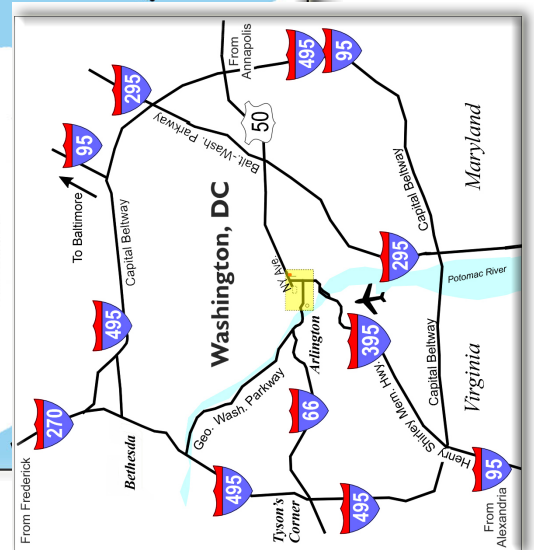
Proceed on **I-270 South** and **exit** onto **I-495 West** towards "**Northern Virginia.**" Take **Exit 14** to the **George Washington Parkway**. Proceed on **George Washington Parkway** and take the **Theodore Roosevelt Bridge**. Crossing the bridge, continue on **Constitution Avenue**. Follow **Constitution Avenue** until **12th Street** and turn **left**. Proceed **North** on **12th Street**, make a **right** turn onto **New York Avenue**. Follow **New York Avenue** two blocks to **9th Street**, turn **right**. The hotel will be on your immediate **left**.

From the West (Dulles Airport, Tyson's Corner, McLean Virginia)

Take **I-66 East** to the **Theodore Roosevelt Bridge**. Take the **Constitution Avenue exit** off of the **Theodore Roosevelt Bridge**. Proceed to **12th Street NW** and make a **left** turn. You will be traveling **North** on **12th Street**, make a **right** turn on **New York Avenue**. Proceed on **New York Avenue** for only two blocks and make a **right** turn on **9th Street**. The hotel is on your immediate **left**.



Washington, DC



Registration Information

There will be no registration fee to attend this conference. However, it is important to pre-register for planning purposes. The conference will provide continental breakfast and breaks on Thursday and Friday, and a reception on Thursday. Lunch for both days will be on your own.

All attendees, including presenters, must register for the conference. The registration deadline is March 8, 2002. To register, complete the **registration form**, and if needed, the **foreign national visitor's form**, and mail or fax them to **NETL Event Management**.

Meeting materials will be provided at on-site registration.

Foreign National Visitor Notice

All foreign nationals who wish to attend DOE sponsored conferences, meetings, workshops, or seminars are required to submit NETL Form F142.1-2 requesting a DOE unclassified visit. A minimum of 30 days advance notice is required for the review and approval process for unclassified foreign national visits. A foreign national is any person who is not a U.S. citizen and includes permanent resident aliens (PRAs or "green card holder").

NETL supports an active program of unclassified visits by foreign nationals. International cooperation and collaboration is an important element within our programs. NETL is required to ensure that these visits are conducted under prescribed conditions in a manner consistent with the U.S. Department of Energy's policies.

The NETL Foreign National Visitor Form F142.1-2 is located in the back of this brochure. Please submit the form as soon as possible to NETL Event Management, who will coordinate the process and make approval notification.

NETL Event Management, MS-A09

3610 Collins Ferry Road

P.O. Box 880

Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

Phone: 304-285-4750 or 1-800-553-7681

Fax: 304-285-4459

E-mail: confserv@netl.doe.gov

Website: www.netl.doe.gov

Registration

Methane Hydrates Interagency R&D Conference
Washington, DC

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name _____
(FIRST) (LAST)

Affiliation _____

Address _____ MS - _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Country _____

Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Please identify any special needs _____

Are you interested in presenting a poster? ____ Yes ____ No

Will you be attending the reception on Thursday evening, March 21? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you a U.S. citizen? ____ Yes ____ No

If not, list citizenship _____

Non-U.S. citizens wishing to attend must submit a Foreign National Visitor's Form (F142.1-2) at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Please read the Foreign National Visitor Notice for instructions.

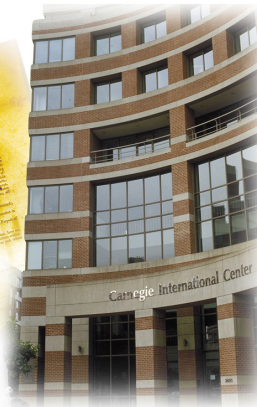
Mail or fax this registration form and, if needed, the foreign national visitor's form to:

NETL Event Management, MS-A09
National Energy Technology Laboratory
3610 Collins Ferry Road
P.O. Box 880
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

Fax: 304-285-4459

PART I - PERSONAL DATA

Mail, fax or E-mail to:



Things to Do/Places to See

The following attractions are near the Renaissance Washington DC Hotel:

- U.S. Capitol
- White House
- Smithsonian Museums
- MCI Center
- Carnegie Library and Library of Congress
- National Portrait Gallery and National Gallery of Art
- Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, National Theater, and Ford's Theatre
- Washington Monument
- Lincoln Memorial

For a complete listing of attractions in the vicinity, visit the official tourism website of Washington, DC, at

www.washington.org/

